

WEST WILTS u3a

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY 19 MARCH 2025 at 2.00 p.m. ST JAMES'S HALL, TROWBRIDGE

PRESENT: Dennis Drewett (Chair), Ken Foster (Treasurer), Simon Welch (Secretary), Alan Soldat, David King, Mike Holden, Dinah Starkey, Lynda O'Connor, John Marsden, Will Stallard (Minutes)

There were 110 members present in the Hall.

1. **Introduction and Welcome:** The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting in the Hall.
2. **Apologies** Sandi Jarvis, Brian Jarvis, Lesley Povey, Dickon Povey, Jan Stallard, Kathi Walker, Jennifer Large, Trevor Large, Karen Hunt, Carol McCaw, Wendy Weston, Kate Winfield, Jeffrey Morris, Jeremy Johnson
3. **Minutes of AGM held on Wednesday 20 March 2024**
All members had been notified by email that all relevant documents for this AGM were available on the website.
4. **Approval of Minutes of AGM held on Wednesday 20 March 2024**
There were no matters arising and therefore it was proposed that they be accepted as a true record. Accepted unanimously and signed by the Chair.
5. **Chairman's Annual Report**

Good afternoon every one and welcome to the West Wilts u3a AGM for 2025.
Firstly I would ask you for a few moments silence to remember absent friends.

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Well this has been my third year as chairman of West Wilts u3a. And, as I said at last year's AGM, I am pleased to be able to say that, despite that, our u3a is still doing well. Our membership continues the steadily grow, 745 at the last count. The number of different activity groups is also on the increase as you will have seen in the list printed in our quarterly magazine. I seem to hear nothing but good vibes from all the new groups and our existing ones.

Our monthly meeting have had increasing numbers of attendees and our speakers, thanks to our Speaker sub-committee, have all given us both entertainment and information.

Next, I do this as often as I get the opportunity because it is really important, I want to thank all your officers, committee, Group Leaders and all the other supporting volunteers that work behind and alongside our committee for their work and their commitment throughout this year. I want to stress that without the ongoing commitment and work of all the committee and committee support individuals our WWu3a would not be as successful as it most certainly is! Please remember our u3a is an association run "By its Members, for its Members".

Our constitution allows us up to 12 Trustees/Committee members we currently 9. Your committee has seen few comings and goings over the course of the year but despite all the office roles having now been filled, Will Stallard having filled the Vice Chairman position and picking up the Minutes Secretary Role and Simon Welch has filled the Secretary Position, it is still running a little under full strength with three trustee positions unfilled, your committee, once elected, can co-opt people to its ranks so please consider joining them, amongst our growing membership there must be a few keen to contribute a little time to help our WWu3a continue to flourish!

Last year in June our West Wilts u3a celebrated its 35th anniversary, and at our June monthly meeting we celebrated that and our ongoing success. Sheila Friend, our longest serving member, marked her 30 years as a member and was given an Honorary Membership in recognition of this remarkable achievement.

Since then Marion Dutch has joined her marking 30 years as a member on the 1st February and has also been given Honorary Membership. I would also like to congratulate and recognize the fact that the following members have also passed remarkable milestone of 25 years; Hilary Usher, Pam Secker, Ann Simons, Sheila Tisdall and Roger and Mary White, Jennifer Ayland, John Connel, Margret Weston and David and Maxine Shearn.

In November we also held an event, a cream tea at the Paxcroft Community Centre, celebrating the work of our Group Leaders, our committee and all the other supporting volunteers which was very well received. During the year the Third Age Trust has undergone some governance changes, you may have seen details on their Website, if not all the details are there, but under a plan called "Fit For the Future" they have changed from just having just a "Board" to a set up where there is a split, a smaller "Board" looking after the governance and legal compliance issues and a "Council" which is responsible for the day to day running.

I keep saying this and I really mean it, we who are lucky enough to be in our "Third Age", have and enjoy our West Wilts u3a, we all see the benefits it brings by way of keeping people busy and involved, supporting people's wellbeing and helping to reduce isolation. So please keep talking about us to friends and family, spread the word, and help to let others participate in what we all enjoy!!

6. Treasurer's Report

Treasurers report for year ended 31st December 2024

The accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024 have been approved by Joyce Sutterby, as the independent examiner.

The one-page financial statement from Beacon is attached.

Income and expenditure were in line with expectations.

Expenditure to Third Age Trust and our own quarterly magazine totalled £8775, which equated to 86% of our average membership income for the year.

This effectively left £2.10 per member to cover other general costs.

Our surplus unrestricted funds have remained effectively untouched, as they have done over the past 6+ years and it is thanks to those historic trustees (many of whom remain members today), who have left us in this strong position.

Some specific general points

Our Wwu3a magazine currently costs £1.50 per copy, of which £0.85 is postage and overall equated to 35% of the average membership income for the year,

Gift aid claimed for last year was £1015. Whilst we have not had any issues, you may have heard that the Third Age Trust is responding to an 'enquiry' raised by HMRC. Some u3as have already had their claims rejected and there is a potential risk that our Gift Aid status could be withdrawn.

Following a comment at last year's AGM, £9000 of unrestricted funds were placed in Virgin's 120-day notice account with interest of £168 earned in 5 months.

Income from the raffle and tea donations (at monthly meetings) were £170 and £63, respectively.

Speakers' fees (at monthly meetings) for last year were £543.

On-line membership applications were set up towards the end of the year and four members used this method to join in December (PayPal ledger).

Restricted Funds

Restricted funds are those that can only be used for specific purposes. (i.e. Groups or Trips).

However, it should be mentioned that if a group closes, any surplus reverts to 'unrestricted' funds.

Groups

The Groups statement is attached to the accounts and reflects the actual balances for each. F3000 from the Groups' account was placed in Virgin's instant access savings.

*Beacon was updated in 2024 to facilitate individual balances within the financial groups' ledger. (Therefore, making individual group ledgers redundant for financial reporting purposes.)

Trips

The Trips' account balance continues to be well managed by Jean and the team.

Coach and entry fees continue to rise and where possible they make a slight subsidy per head, on the total price of the trip, thus nibbling away at the surplus.

They have seen numbers dropping over the past few months and feel that some members may think the trips are too expensive?

West Wilts u3a

Statement of Accounts: all accounts

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Income & Expenditure, 1st January - 31st December

Start year	2024		2023	
Category	In	Out	In	Out
-Account Transfers	£10,596.76	£10,596.76	£9,823.00	£9,823.00
Commission Paid		£2.61		
Committee		£464.75		£288.74
Donations	£1,255.30		£1,256.33	
Equipment	£12.00	£491.00		£345.69
Group Leaders Tea		£596.67		£705.67
Interest earned	£186.17			
IT		£197.88		£453.65
Manual b/f			£6,898.56	£6,898.56
Membership	£10,577.50	£5.00	£9,511.00	
Monthly Meetings		£1,151.96		£737.53
PPS		£548.76		£354.45
Raffle	£170.75		£119.51	
Refunds	£50.00	£537.50		£495.80
Savings	£12,000.00	£12,000.00		
Speakers to Groups		£830.50		£592.22
Subs to Groups	£15,493.40	£90.15	£14,278.42	
Sundries		£456.71		£255.04
TAT Beacon Licence		£700.00		£649.00
TAT Capitation Fee		£2,656.00		£2,476.00
Trips	£17,287.90	£17,863.55	£18,468.25	£18,576.77
Tutors		£4,340.00		£2,940.00
u3a Matters		£1,808.92		£1,512.51
Venue Rent Groups		£9,146.00		£11,207.00
WW U3A Magazine		£3,609.52		£3,111.34
Sub-totals	£67,629.78	£68,094.24	£60,355.07	£61,422.97
Brought forward	£19,353.92		£20,421.82	
Total		£18,889.46		£19,353.92

Balance Sheet

Current	£45.00	
General	£2,436.00	£11,734.48
Groups	£3,066.02	£5,598.52
PayPal	£59.15	
Trips	£1,097.12	£2,020.92
Virgin instant	£3,017.24	
Virgin120	£9,168.93	
Total	£18,889.46	£19,353.92

Groups at 31/12/2024 B/F In Out Balance

Archaeology	£55.50	£173.20	£228.70	£0.00
Architecture	£89.00	£289.00	£224.00	£154.00
Beginners Geology	£11.45	£0.00	£11.45	£0.00
Bridge	£86.28	£266.00	£73.68	£278.60
Computer Club	£362.83	£0.00	£0.00	£362.83
Computing - iPad, iPod, iPhone	£52.75	£232.20	£220.00	£64.95
Craft 4	£37.51	£0.00	£35.51	£2.00
Exercise Melksham	£0.00	£908.00	£1,040.00	-£132.00
Gardening	£516.00	£6,210.50	£6,166.16	£560.34
History	£150.47	£210.00	£280.00	£80.47
Line Dancing	£731.77	£664.00	£761.00	£634.77
Local History	£421.99	£245.00	£478.90	£188.09
Mah Jong	£14.00	£0.00	£0.00	£14.00
Music Appreciation 2	£256.56	£348.50	£280.00	£325.06
Music Appreciation 3	£168.98	£340.70	£308.00	£201.68
Painting 1	£350.96	£1,194.00	£1,145.70	£399.26
Painting 2 Holt Group	£310.21	£1,015.00	£919.30	£405.91
Painting 3	£33.00	£815.00	£780.00	£68.00
Photography	£54.00	£229.65	£168.00	£115.65
Play Reading	£0.00	£199.95	£210.00	-£10.05
Recorder Playing	£0.00	£30.00	£30.00	£0.00
Science and Engineering	£248.54	£356.38	£220.00	£384.92
Singing for Pleasure	£239.04	£305.92	£390.00	£154.96
Table Tennis	£61.00	£450.00	£414.00	£97.00
Tai-Chi	£888.00	£3,525.00	£3,520.00	£893.00
Ukulele	£299.50	£20.00	£0.00	£319.50
Zumba Gold	£159.18	£2,570.20	£2,305.00	£424.38
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ZZSurplus	£0.00	£78.70	£3,000.00	£2,921.30
	£5,598.52		£3,066.02	

7. Appointment of Independent Examiner for West Wilts u3a Accounts

Joyce Sutterby was appointed Independent Examiner for the West Wilts accounts last year and has agreed to do it for this coming financial year. Majority of members present approved.

8. Election of Chair

Dennis Drewett was nominated for Chair and elected unopposed.

9. Election of Vice Chair

Will Stallard was nominated for Vice-Chair and Minutes Secretary and elected unopposed.

10. Election of Treasurer

Ken Foster was nominated for Treasurer and elected unopposed.

11. Election of Secretary

Simon Welch was nominated for Secretary and elected unopposed.

12. Election of Committee Members

All nominations below were approved and elected unopposed. There were no further nominations from the floor.

Name	Role	Proposed By	Seconded By
Dennis Drewett	Chair	Will Stallard	Dinah Starkey
Will Stallard	Vice-Chair	Dennis Drewett	Caroline Marsden
Ken Foster	Treasurer	Dennis Drewett	Will Stallard
Simon Welch	Secretary	Dennis Drewett	John Marsden
Alan Soldat	Groups' Coordinator	Dennis Drewett	Jan Stallard
David King	Web Master	Lesley Dawe	Sally Walker
Dinah Starkey	Speaker's Secretary	Dennis Drewett	Will Stallard
Lynda O'Connor	Events Co-ordinator	Sheryl Jotcham	M.L. Bailey
Mike Holden	Magazine Editor	Dawn Holden	F.G. Evans

13. Any Other Business: There were no items of any other business.

Updates and announcements:

Groups Co-ordinator Alan Soldate noted that it was hoped a partnership with Westbourne Bowls Club would start in April 2025 and meetings would be taking place soon to progress this development. AS further noted that 34 people so far had expressed an interest in 'pickleball', so that could be 2 groups at least. It was yet to be decided where this would be played, and instructions would be required for the first session. On the Zoom meetings, being held for those who could not for some reason attend meetings in person, there has not been much response, with the next meeting to be held on Thursday 27th March; that would be the last meeting if it did not pick up in terms of demand. Ray Fox noted that it was possible for attendees to phone in; they did not need a computer to attend.

Ken Foster reported that he had been overwhelmed by the response to his appeal for donations to a charity abseiling event he was doing in Portsmouth on 28th June.

The meeting closed at 14:50

Date of Next Annual General Meeting: Wednesday 18th March 2026

Signed:

Dated: